

TOWN BOARD MEETING – WORK SESSION MEETING

October 21, 2024

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner
Councilwoman Tamara Odom
Councilman Jack Simms
Councilwoman Kim Brown

Absent: Mayor George Holleman

The work session was opened for business by Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner at 2:00 p.m.

Open Forum:

There was not public comment forum held at the work session.

Special Presentations:

Board of Elections: Patrick Wyke

Board of Elections Director Patrick Wyke gave a presentation to the council on the benefits of staggered electoral terms for elected officials of the town of Taylorsville. Mr. Wyke started his presentation at 2:01 p.m. and his presentation discussed the history of the town of Taylorsville electoral cycles, similar municipality electoral breakdown from across the state, the charter amendment process, and a timeline for implementation of changes. Mr. Wyke discussed the difference in even and odd year elections and the cost differential between the two electoral cycles. Councilwoman Kim Brown voiced an opinion to stagger the election terms to prevent a complete wipe out of council members and her desire to keep the electoral cycle on even years. Councilman Jack Simms stated that the cost of an independent local election would still be the same in odd years and agreed with councilwoman Brown's fear of losing the whole council in one election cycle. Councilwomen Tamara Odom and Kim Brown stated they did not want partisanship elections.

Economic Development Strategic Plan: Phil Boggan

Phil Boggan of the NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division presented to council the benefits of working with the Rural Economic Development Division and stakeholders within the Taylorsville community to develop an economic development strategic plan. Mr. Boggan started his presentation at 2:15 p.m. and discussed why it is beneficial to the town to develop a strategic plan, the process to develop a strategic plan, which would involve developing a committee of community members and staff to collaborate and develop the plan. Councilwoman Kim Brown asked if current members of the downtown committee could serve on the strategic plan committee. Mr. Boggan discussed with council members potential other committee members from the town. Discussion was held between council members and Mr. Boggan on developing a town-wide strategic plan and incorporating the desire of the council for Taylorsville to become an accredited Mainstreet community in the future within the plan. Mr. Boggan discussed his background in downtown economic development while working for the state of Louisiana and the impact on businesses from becoming an accredited Mainstreet community.

Department Head Reports:

Public Works:

Aaron Wike, Public Works Director, updated council on the traffic diet study and informed them they should have the data by November 5th, 2024. Mr. Wike stated that the playground equipment for Matheson Park had been ordered and should ship on November 6th, 2024. Mr. Wike also stated that several projects that hoped to be funded through the state general assembly short session would probably not be funded and will need to be addressed. These projects include median removal, water issue at 2nd Avenue, and the repaving of intersection of 1st Avenue and Center St. where the road is uneven. Mr. Wike stated we may can use Powell Bill money as the patch to repair was \$30,000. Public Works employees were repairing a water service line today, it was an old galvanize service line on Main Avenue behind the county's services building. The sidewalk and pavement project are set to go out to bid. The road diet additional design plans would be an additional \$20,000 cost to the town.

Business Items:

Town Manager, Nathan Hester, requested council provide staff with clarity on the direction council wants staff to head with the redevelopment of the town website. Mr. Hester was under the impression that the council had voted to work with the current vendor to provide updates, but that a third party had been creating a separate website. Multiple members of council provided clarity by stating they wanted to see what the current vendor and the proposed third-party vendor could present before they decided to move forward with a complete re-design of the town website. Council provided multiple items they would like to see on the new website.

Town Manager Nathan Hester proposed to the town council to sell the urgent care building. Mr. Hester stated that the building has a property drainage issue due to insufficient infrastructure on surrounding properties. Mr. Hester stated that the urgent care project was a great project for the town to complete and provided an asset to the community. Mr. Hester stated that the town should not be in the property management business, that the town should own and maintain property that the town needs to utilize for operations. The council agreed and a consensus was reached for staff to gather further details on the potential sale of the property.

Councilwoman Kim Brown presented a quote from Mosca Designs on a 34'(ft) artificial panel Christmas tree to be purchased by the town and displayed within the town each holiday season. Mrs. Brown discussed working to solicit corporate sponsorships for the purchase or payback for the purchase of the tree. Various members of the council discussed the quote from Mosaca for \$43,000 with ornaments at \$4,500, and \$1,000 for the tree topper. The council wanted to see a verified quote that the company sent and not one communicated through email. Eric Bumgarner, Tamara Odom, and Kim Brown all expressed support for the purchase of the tree, with council member Jack Simms in opposition. The council directed staff to receive additional quotes from other companies while the council continued to work to secure further sponsorship funding.

Town Manager Nathan Hester discussed the potential dissolution of the ABC merger with Catawba County ABC Board. Mr. Hester stated that a decision would need to be made by

council very soon as the next stated meeting for the NC ABC Commission would be on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Mr. Hester stated, whatever council desire as for the future of the ABC Board and store within Taylorsville is, a decision will need to be made so the state ABC Commission could vote in favor or not in favor. A special meeting would need to be called, and the council determined Friday, October 25th, 2024, at 10:30 A.M. a special meeting would be held to vote on the ABC dissolution.

Council General Discussion:

Councilman Jack Simms requested the Town Manager to meet with the owner of the hospital, to discuss the future of the property and potential project ideas. Mr. Simms stated the property owner had communicated a lack of communication from the town and county government. Mr. Simms also requested the Town Manager to contact NCDOT about the pedestrian safety hazard along the sidewalk of Center St. and Main Avenue.

Town Manager gave council members a preliminary sponsorship packet that he had been working on. The purpose of the packet is to send to businesses within the Taylorsville community to solicit sponsorships for town events in the 2025 calendar year. The council expressed interest in releasing the packet and directed the Manager to continue to work on the packet.

Councilwoman Brown discussed dissatisfaction with the spray-painted numbers on the street from the Apple festival and how it looks bad. Requested that the town work with the organizers of the festival in the future to develop a cleaner way to mark vendor locations for the festival. She also stated that some of the proceeds from the festival should be returned to the town for downtown beautification.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk